

# Sample Itinerary: Havana, Vinales, and Trinidad – 9 Nights

---

## Trip Summary

Thursday · January 9th, 2025 – Saturday · January 18th, 2025

---

Thursday · January 9th	Arrival at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba Your Guide and Drivers Escort You to Your B&B; Check-In and Settle-In Dinner at a Top Paladar Evening Entertainment: Fabrica de Arte Cubano
Friday · January 10th	Breakfast at Your Casa Cigar Factory Explore Old Havana by Foot Lunch at a Top Paladar Museo de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts) with One of Cuba's Foremost Art Experts Return to Accommodations to Refresh Dinner at a Top Paladar Private Performance at the Home Studio of One of Cuba's Top Jazz Musicians
Saturday · January 11th	Breakfast at Your Casa Drive to the Countryside, Vinales, Cuba's Main Tobacco Growing Region Lunch at Family-Style, Farm-to-Table Restaurant Visit a Tobacco Farm Stop at the Home Studio of Artist Ramón Vázquez León Return to Havana Home-Cooked Dinner at your B&B
Sunday · January 12th	Breakfast at Your Casa Discover Fusterlandia, a Neighborhood Built on the Work of Artist Jose Fuster Sunday Festivities at Callejon de Hamel Lunch at a Top Paladar Salsa Dancing in Old Havana Backdoor Access to a Rehearsal for Cuba's National Ballet Dinner at a Top Paladar
Monday · January 13th	Breakfast at Your Casa Drive from Havana to Playa Giron Lunch at a Local Paladar Visit the Bay of Pigs Museum at Playa Girón Stop in Cienfuegos to Visit the Main Square, Galeria Santa Isabel, and the Palacio del Valle

	Drive to Trinidad Check-in at your B&B Dinner at a Top Paladar
Tuesday · January 14th	Breakfast at Your Casa Explore the Town of Trinidad Lunch at a Top Paladar An Afternoon led by Trinidad Art Expert Atner Cadalso Galeria Yudit Vidal Faife Galeria Jorge Cesar Saenz Dinner at a Top Paladar
Wednesday · January 15th	Breakfast at Your Casa Valle de los Ingenios [Valley of the Sugarcane Mills] Lunch at a Top Paladar Last-Afternoon Stops in Trinidad Dinner at a Top Paladar
Thursday · January 16th	Breakfast at Your Casa Drive to Santa Clara Lunch at a Local Paladar Stop at the Derailed Train Monument (Tren Blindado) Visit the Statue, Museum and Mausoleum of Che Guevarra Return to Havana Check-in at your B&B Dinner at a Top Paladar or Your B&B
Friday · January 17th	Breakfast at Your Casa Cooking Class & Lunch Lunch at a Top Paladar Final Stops in Havana Return to Accommodations to Refresh Closing Dinner at Havana's Most Celebrated Restaurant
Saturday · January 18th	Breakfast at Your Casa 2.5 Hours Prior to Your Departure Flight, Your Drivers Will Pick You Up at the Casa Return Flight from Havana to the USA

#### Thursday · January 9th

### Arrival at Jose Marti International Airport in Havana, Cuba

### Your Guide and Drivers Escort You to Your B&B; Check-In and Settle-In

Your guide and drivers will escort you to your accommodations, where you will check-in and settle-in.

### Dinner at a Top Paladar

### Evening Entertainment: Fabrica de Arte Cubano

Enjoy this incredible and unique venue, home to an always-impressive art exhibition, film, others forms of art and nightlife such as live music, dancing, bars, food, etc.) This hip, avant-garde venue is open Thursday-Sunday night from 8pm to 3am. Your drivers will take you back to your casa at a reasonable hour (usually 11:00-11:30pm). But feel free to stay later and take a taxi home - there are always many waiting out front.

### **Friday · January 10th**

#### **Breakfast at Your Casa**

---

#### **Cigar Factory**

Visit a national cigar factory to get a look at the production process and better understand the processes that lead to these world famous stogies.

---

#### **Explore Old Havana by Foot**

Explore Old Havana with your guide and learn about the city's most culturally rich and historically important neighborhood.

---

#### **Lunch at a Top Paladar**

---

#### **Museo de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Fine Arts) with One of Cuba's Foremost Art Experts**

Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts, where you will be greeted by a very special guide, Nelson Herrera Ysla. As a professional artist and one of Cuba's most respected art historians and critics, Nelson has curated more than 30 exhibitions around the world and published hundreds of books and articles. Meanwhile, as the co-founder of the esteemed Wilfredo Lam Center, Nelson is responsible for organizing the Havana's Biennial Art Festival. The museum tour is particularly enlightening with respect to Cuba's art, social and political history.

---

#### **Return to Accommodations to Refresh**

---

#### **Dinner at a Top Paladar**

---

#### **Private Performance at the Home Studio of One of Cuba's Top Jazz Musicians**

Visit the home studio of one of Cuba's top jazz musicians and band leaders. He and his group will treat you to a variety of their tunes, which are influenced by Afro-Cuban and traditional jazz styles.

### **Saturday · January 11th**

#### **Breakfast at Your Casa**

---

#### **Drive to the Countryside, Vinales, Cuba's Main Tobacco Growing Region**

---

## **Lunch at Family-Style, Farm-to-Table Restaurant**

Enjoy a fantastic, farm-to-table lunch and stunning views of the valley at one of our favorite countryside restaurants.

---

## **Visit a Tobacco Farm**

Check out a tobacco farm, where you will learn about the growing and processing of tobacco, as well as the wider industry. Learn about the production process, the industry, and cigars in general. This is your chance to access the growers/producers of Cuba's tobacco, a country with grand footprint in the global tobacco market.

---

## **Stop at the Home Studio of Artist Ramón Vázquez León**

Visit the studio Cuban artist, Ramón Vázquez León, at his home studio in Vinales.

---

## **Return to Havana**

---

## **Home-Cooked Dinner at your B&B**

**Sunday · January 12th**

---

## **Breakfast at Your Casa**

---

## **Discover Fusterlandia, a Neighborhood Built on the Work of Artist Jose Fuster**

Check out this neighborhood developed by artist Jose Fuster. Visit his home - built in his unique art style - and enjoy views of the surrounding neighborhood from the top floor.

---

## **Sunday Festivities at Callejon de Hamel**

Every Sunday there is special Afro-Cuban fiesta in this small, popular alley developed by artist Salvador Escalona and other Cuban artists. The art project has particularly strong political and cultural significance. Be forewarned that the festival is occasionally canceled, but it's important to visit this unique area regardless of the party.

---

## **Lunch at a Top Paladar**

---

## **Salsa Dancing in Old Havana**

Have fun at this hip Old-Havana based dance school that offers super charismatic teachers who make it fun for people of all skill levels.

---

## **Backdoor Access to a Rehearsal for Cuba's National Ballet**

Attend a rehearsal for the National Ballet of Cuba, which is among the most famous in the world, having developed a rigorous training program and uniquely Cuban dance styles admired by ballet enthusiasts around the globe.

## Notes

This event is not open to the public.

---

## Dinner at a Top Paladar

Monday · January 13th

## Breakfast at Your Casa

---

## Drive from Havana to Playa Giron

Drive to Playa Giron, where the Bay of Pigs Invasion took place. You have the option to stop for a brief swim once you close to the area.

Visit the modest Bay of Pigs museum, which gives you an inside look into how the Cuban government portrays this historical milestone.

---

## Lunch at a Local Paladar

---

## Visit the Bay of Pigs Museum at Playa Girón

Visit the beach where the Bay of Pigs invasion occurred, as well as the Museo de Playa Girón, located a stone's throw away from Playa Girón, one of the beaches invaded during the Bay of Pigs.

Museo Girón houses photographs, exhibits and artifacts related to an infamous, failed American-backed invasion of Cuba in 1961. Cuba's victory over the US, on the other hand, helped solidify the Revolutionary government just two years into its existence.

The items inside the small building detail the history what some call the first defeat of US imperialism in Latin America, and evidence that the Cuban Revolutionary government was here to stay.

Tanks and aircrafts used in the Bay of Pigs invasion are on display outside the museum.

---

## Stop in Cienfuegos to Visit the Main Square, Galeria Santa Isabel. and the Palacio del Valle

Stop in Cienfuegos to see the main square, the town's most reputable art gallery (Santa Isabel), and Palacio de Valle, where you can enjoy a drink on the rooftop bar.

---

## Drive to Trinidad

---

## Check-in at your B&B

Check-in at your casa and take some time to unpack, refresh and relax before a fantastic first night.

---

## Dinner at a Top Paladar

## Breakfast at Your Casa

---

## Explore the Town of Trinidad

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites and other important, representative areas of this historically rich town. Enjoy a break from bustling Havana to spend a few nights in this pleasant, colorful colonial town.

---

## Lunch at a Top Paladar

---

## An Afternoon led by Trinidad Art Expert Atner Cadalso

Spend the afternoon with Atner Cadalso, the foremost local art expert. Atner will discuss the local art scene and lead you to some of the top studios and artists.

---

## Galeria Yudit Vidal Faife

---

## Galeria Jorge Cesar Saenz

---

## Dinner at a Top Paladar

## Breakfast at Your Casa

---

## Valle de los Ingenios [Valley of the Sugarcane Mills]

This is where the three valleys (San Luis, Santa Rosa, and Meyer) interconnect. The area was once a major center for sugar production, especially from the late-18th century until the late 19th century. The first stop will be at San Asidro de los Destiladeros, one of the most important cites related to the sugar industry. The second stop will be in Manaca/Iznaga, where the largest sugar factory during the 19th century was located. The final stop will be at El Mirador del Valle to enjoy a view of valley and Guamuaya mountains.

---

## Lunch at a Top Paladar

---

## Last-Afternoon Stops in Trinidad

Make your final stops in Trinidad this afternoon, as you will depart for Santa Clara in the morning.

---

## Dinner at a Top Paladar

## Breakfast at Your Casa

---

## Drive to Santa Clara

After breakfast, head to Santa Clara, the city of Che Guevara and Marta Abreu.

---

## Lunch at a Local Paladar

---

## Stop at the Derailed Train Monument (Tren Blindado)

Visit the derailed train monument in Santa Clara, a site dedicated to a major battle victory when Che Guevara-led revolutionaries attacked and derailed a train sent by Fulgencio Batista in December 1958 carrying counter-revolutionary soldiers and munitions.

---

## Visit the Statue, Museum and Mausoleum of Che Guevarra

Stop at the Plaza de Che Guevara, where you will visit the Che Guevara statue, Mausoleum and Museum before heading back to Havana.

---

## Return to Havana

---

## Check-in at your B&B

Check-in at your casa for your final night.

---

## Dinner at a Top Paladar or Your B&B

## Breakfast at Your Casa

### Meeting Point

Casa's Breakfast Area

---

## Cooking Class & Lunch

Head to a successful restaurant located in Cojimar, a small fishing village just outside of Havana. Visit the cafe's organic, urban gardens located close to the restaurant. After returning to the cafe, the chef will give an introduction about Cuban cuisine and explain the traditional Cuban dish, Ajiaco, after which the restaurant is named. Then, learn how to prepare ropa vieja (delicious shredded meat dish made of beef or lamb), seafood in a creole sauce, and a batch of mojitos.

Finally, enjoy your lunch!

---

## **Lunch at a Top Paladar**

---

## **Final Stops in Havana**

Use your final afternoon to make last-minute stops in Havana, such as the independent souvenir market in Old Havana and any key sites you may have missed during the week.

---

## **Return to Accommodations to Refresh**

---

## **Closing Dinner at Havana's Most Celebrated Restaurant**

**Saturday · January 18th**

## **Breakfast at Your Casa**

---

## **2.5 Hours Prior to Your Departure Flight, Your Drivers Will Pick You Up at the Casa**

Three hours before your flight, your drivers will escort you to Jose Marti International Airport.

---

## **Return Flight from Havana to the USA**

Return trip to the USA